



**Louisiana Board of Regents
Technical Report
Spring 2018**

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**Campus Safety & Victimization
Survey
Louisiana Board of Regents
Technical Report**

Released by
Center for Research on Violence Against Women (CRVAW)
University of Kentucky
2018

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Acknowledgements

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Background Information

At the direction of the University of Kentucky's (UK) President Capilouto, the Campus Attitudes Toward Safety (C.A.T.S.) survey was developed by the Center for Research on Violence Against Women (CRVAW) to provide the administration with student data regarding campus safety for the purpose of internal quality improvement. Specifically, information was collected to assess the campus climate and students' experiences with a range of violence and harassment, including sexual violence and partner violence. It was expected this information would be used to plan services, educate stakeholders, and inform prevention efforts.

The CRVAW faculty, tasked as the survey development team, produced a comprehensive survey instrument with the goal of assessing a range of violence and harassment experiences that college students may encounter as well as to evaluate campus climate and safety issues. The survey consists of campus climate modules that covers perceptions of safety, knowledge of resources, inclination to use university resources, perceptions of university responses to sexual assault reports, attitudes toward affirmative consent elements, violence risk factors, bystander attitudes, bystander behaviors, and participation in campus programs. Additionally, the survey assesses students' victimization experiences with the following types of violence and harassment: bullying, sexual harassment, stalking, sexual assault, physical violence in relationships, psychological abuse in relationships, and reproductive coercion.

The survey was designed as a streamlined instrument that would require a short amount of time if the college student had little or no exposure to violence/harassment (average time 15-20 minutes). Those students would experience a shortened version because they would not see branching items that were used to collect more specific follow-up information from students who had reported that they had experienced that form of violence. To keep the focus on campus violence, the survey was designed to determine whether the adverse experiences of students involved other students or employees (i.e., faculty/staff) at the institution or individuals with no college affiliation. Sexual assault items additionally determined whether the incident took place at events or locations on the university/college campus.

Background Information

Survey Implementation

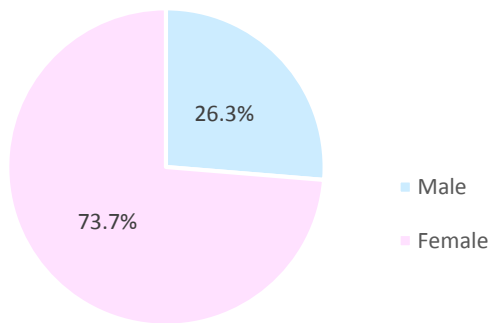
The Board of Regents of Louisiana had been cognizant of the University of Kentucky's survey and implementation strategies, and also recognized the potential for adaptation of C.A.T.S. for use with Louisiana colleges and universities. Following consultation with the PI and Research Program Manager for C.A.T.S. at UK, the Board of Regents requested that the survey be customized and adapted for use with the 32 public institutions of higher education in Louisiana. Following a contract between the Board of Regents and the University of Kentucky, the survey was posted on Qualtrics, a survey platform to which the University of Kentucky subscribes and which is located behind the university's firewalls and security systems. Upon approval from the Board of Regents, the UK team provided a website link which the Board of Regents passed on to individual Louisiana institutions for the purpose of contacting their students with the request to complete the survey. With the website link, students from any of the 32 institutions could directly access the survey to provide anonymous information. Individual institutions were requested by the Board of Regents to devise promotional and incentive strategies, if possible, to increase the likelihood of students participating voluntarily.

Because this was the first time that this particular survey was utilized and distributed to Louisiana campuses, target dates for administration of the survey were delayed while individual schools met IRB requirements and devised the promotional strategies. Thus, many students received the survey toward the end of the Spring semester 2018. As of May 2018, a total of 7,110 students had responded to this voluntary survey link across the 32 institutions of higher education. Of this total, 73.7% were female students and 26.3 % were male students. The Board of Regents anticipates that earlier distribution of the survey and advanced planning time for institutions to develop strategies for promotion and incentives is likely to increase participation in upcoming years.

Demographic Information of Survey Respondents

Please note: Demographic information applies only to students who completed this survey in the post-secondary institutions in Louisiana. The results of each section of the survey are presented both for all the students responding from the 32 Louisiana institutions and by participant gender (i.e., male, female).

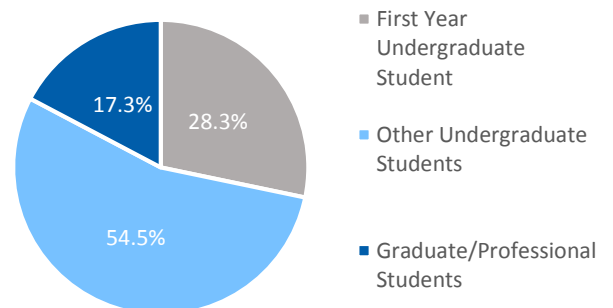
GENDER



Louisiana Board of Regents directed all institutions to distribute the Campus Safety & Victimization survey in the spring semester of 2018. As of May 2018, a total of 7,110 students responded to the voluntary survey link distributed among colleges and universities. For this population of students who completed the survey, 73.7% were female students and 26.3% were male students.

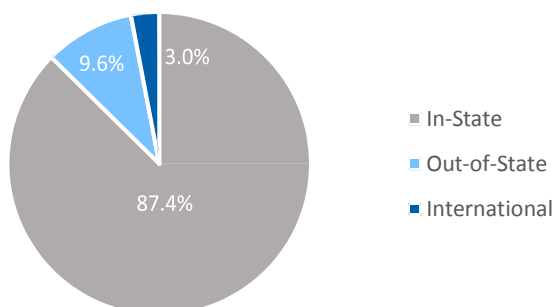
STUDENT CLASSIFICATION

Student classification revealed that 28.3% were first-year students on campus, 54.5% were non-freshmen undergraduates, 17.3% were graduate and/or professional students.

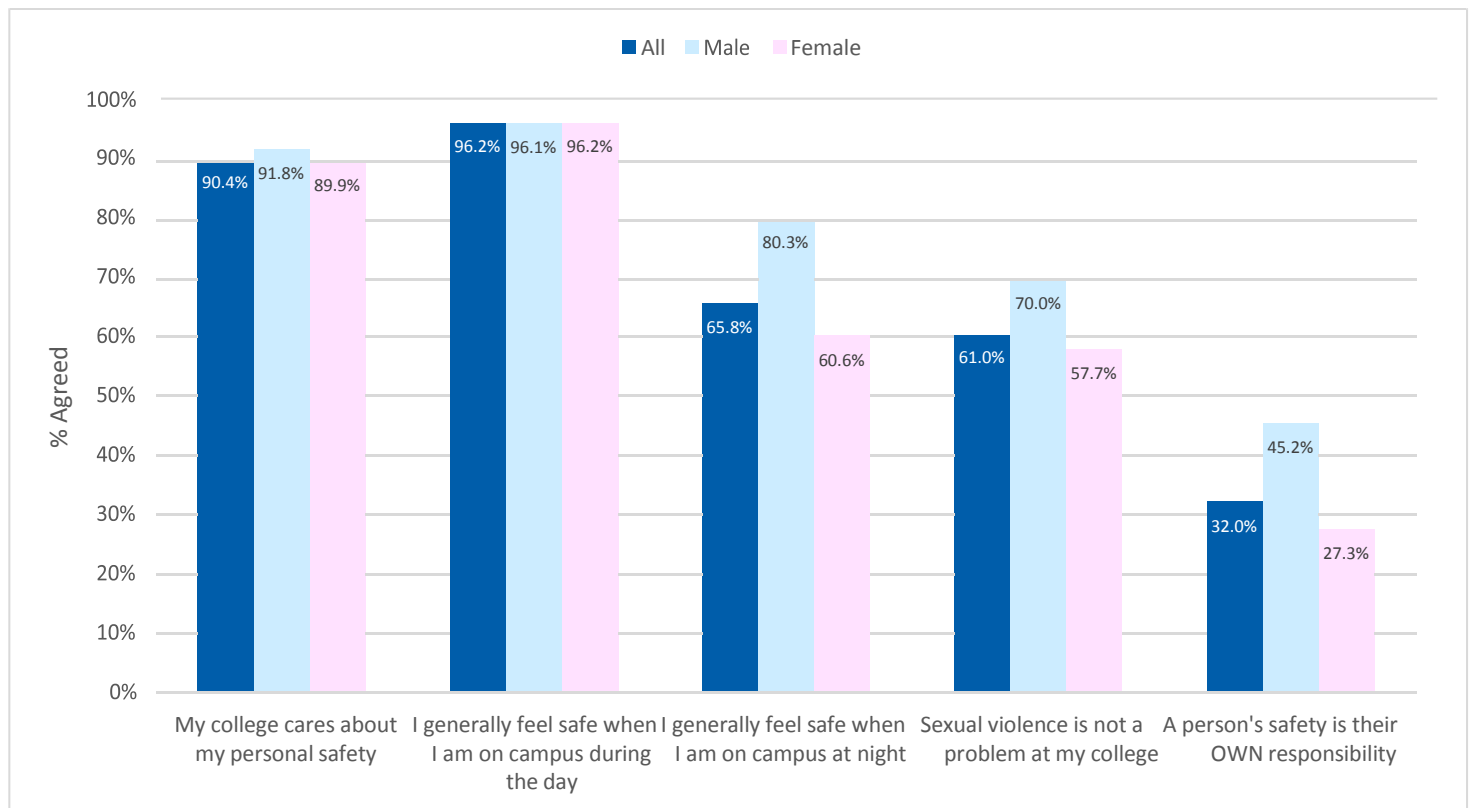


REGION

More students were from Louisiana with in-state status (87.4%) than from other states or other countries (12.6%). The majority of students were Domestic students (97%); only 3% of student participants were International students.



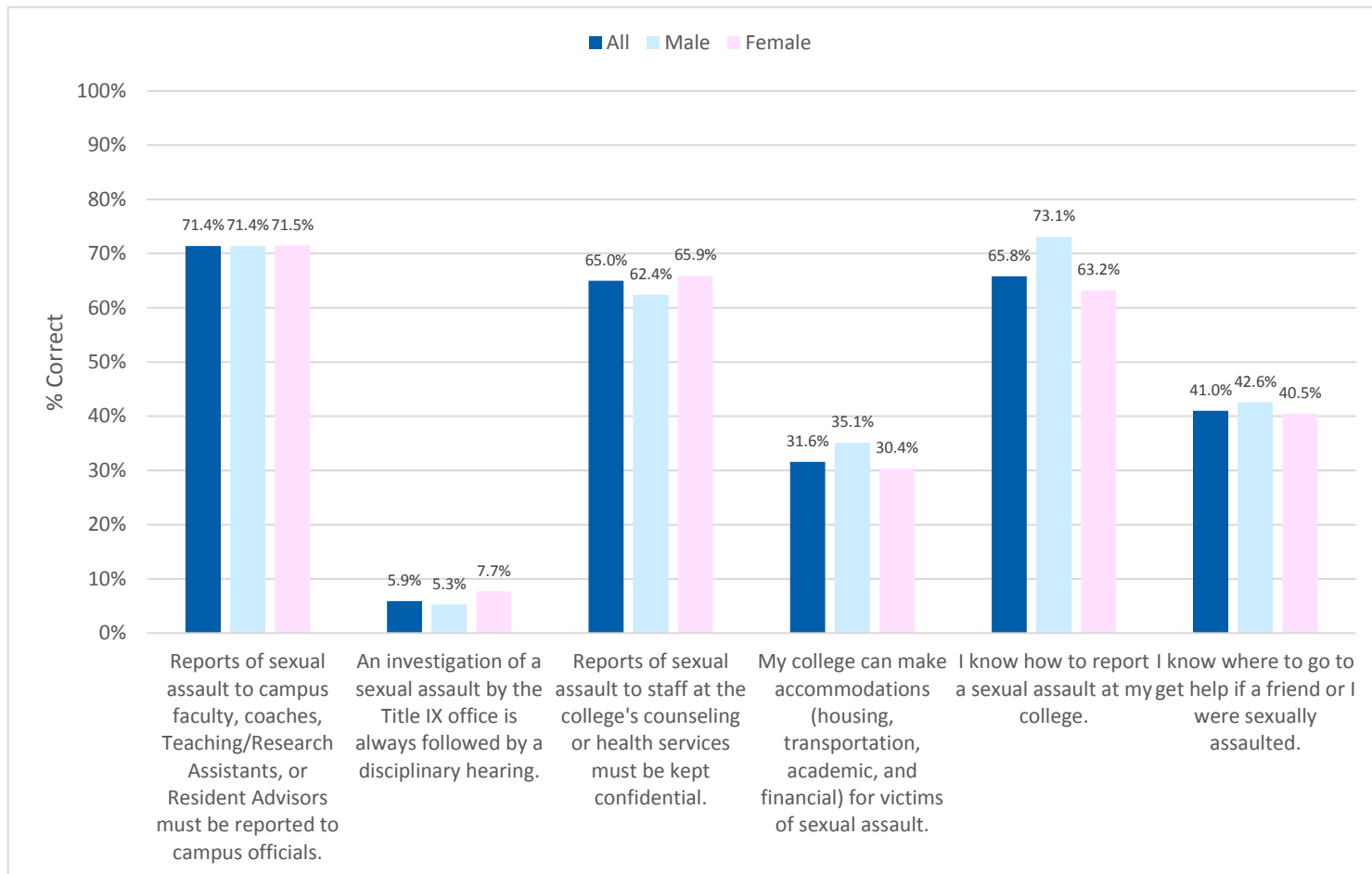
Perception of Safety



Figures reflect percentage of responding students who agreed with these five statements

Generally, students feel quite safe at their institutions. Almost all students (90.4%) believed that their college cares about their safety. More students felt safe during the day on campus (96.2%) than at night (65.8%), but this difference in perception of safety was mostly due to approximately 30.4% of the female students indicating they did not feel safe at night compared with feeling safe during the day. In contrast to general perceptions of safety, only 61% of students believed that sexual violence was NOT a problem on their campus. Males (70%) more than females (57.7%) reported that sexual violence is NOT a problem at their institution. Approximately 32% of students thought that their safety is their own responsibility and not others' responsibility. Male students more frequently endorsed this response (45.2%) than female students (27.3%).

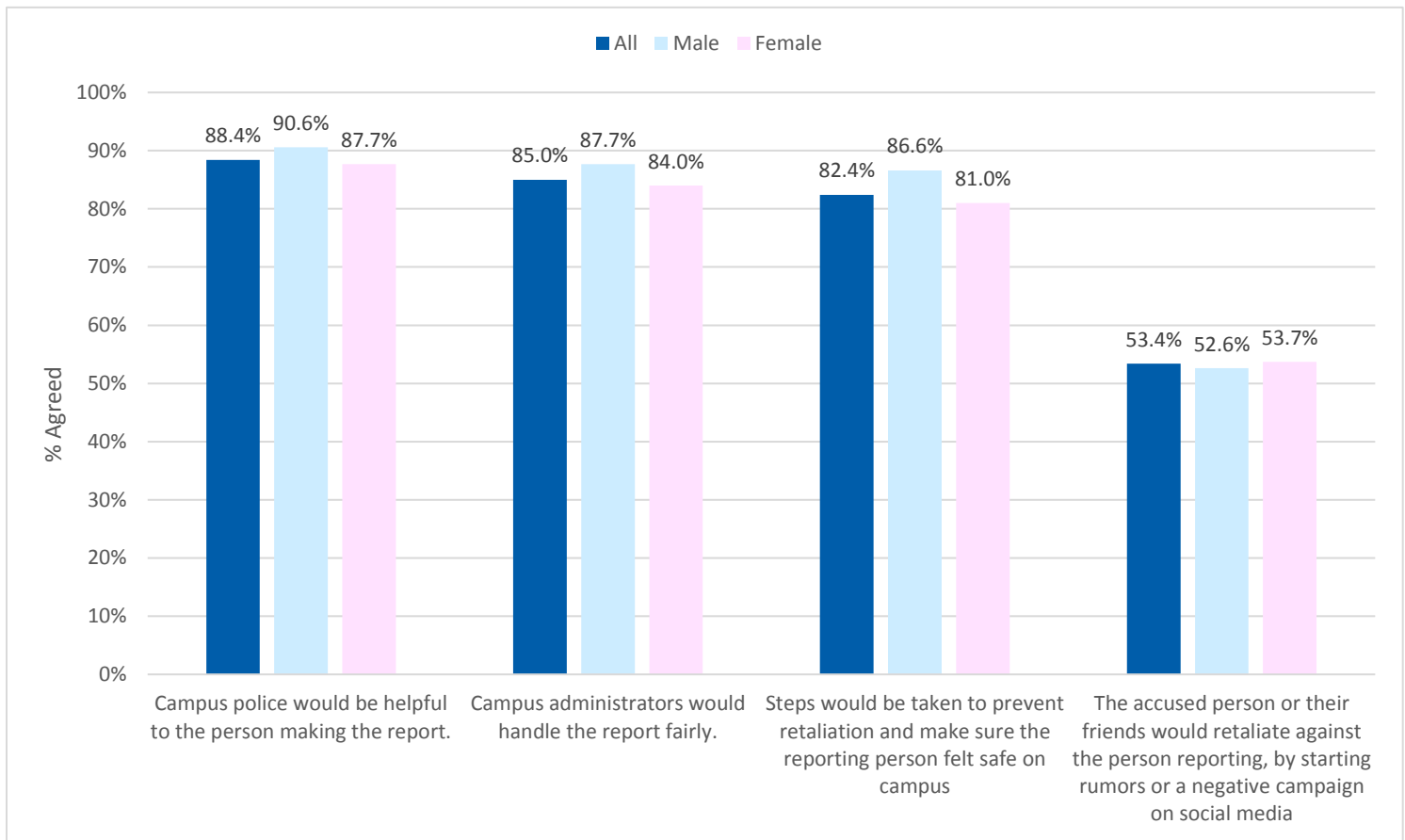
Knowledge of Resources



Figures reflect percentage of responding students who were accurate regarding these statements

Although more than half of the students were accurate regarding knowledge related to reporting sexual assault, this still leaves a significant proportion of students who are not correctly informed. Approximately 71% were aware that personnel (e.g., faculty, TAs, RAs, coaches) would be required to report to campus officials if they were informed that a sexual assault had occurred. Few students (5.9%) were aware that a Title IX investigation of a sexual assault is not necessarily followed by a disciplinary hearing, thus 94.1% did not accurately respond for this item. Because of reporting requirements, one knowledge item determined whether students knew that certain sources on campus would keep any reports of sexual assault confidential; approximately 65% of the students were accurate that counseling sources provided confidential services; however, more females (65.9%) than males (62.4%) were aware of this. Only 31.6% of the students were aware that accommodations can be made for victims of violence. Only 65.8% of students said they knew how to report a sexual assault at their college and only 41% reported knowing where to go to get help if they or a friend were sexually assaulted. This means that 59% of the students who completed this survey DO NOT know how to get help if they were victims of sexual assault.

Perception of Institution Response to Sexual

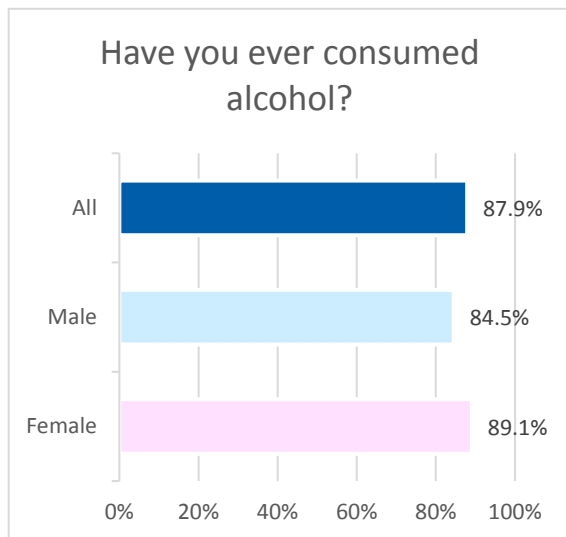


Figures reflect percentage of responding students who agreed with these four statements regarding the response of their campus to a sexual assault.

When asked how their campus would respond to a sexual assault, most students believed that their institution would respond in a fair and helpful manner to a report of sexual assault. Specifically, 88.4% believed campus police would be helpful, and 85% believed the administration would handle the report fairly. Approximately half (53.4%) of the students responded that they expected the accused person or his/her friends would retaliate against the person reporting a sexual assault; however, 82.4% believed that steps would be taken by campus personnel to prevent such retaliation against the person making the report. Male and female students were somewhat similar in their perceptions of how the college would respond to reports of sexual assault.

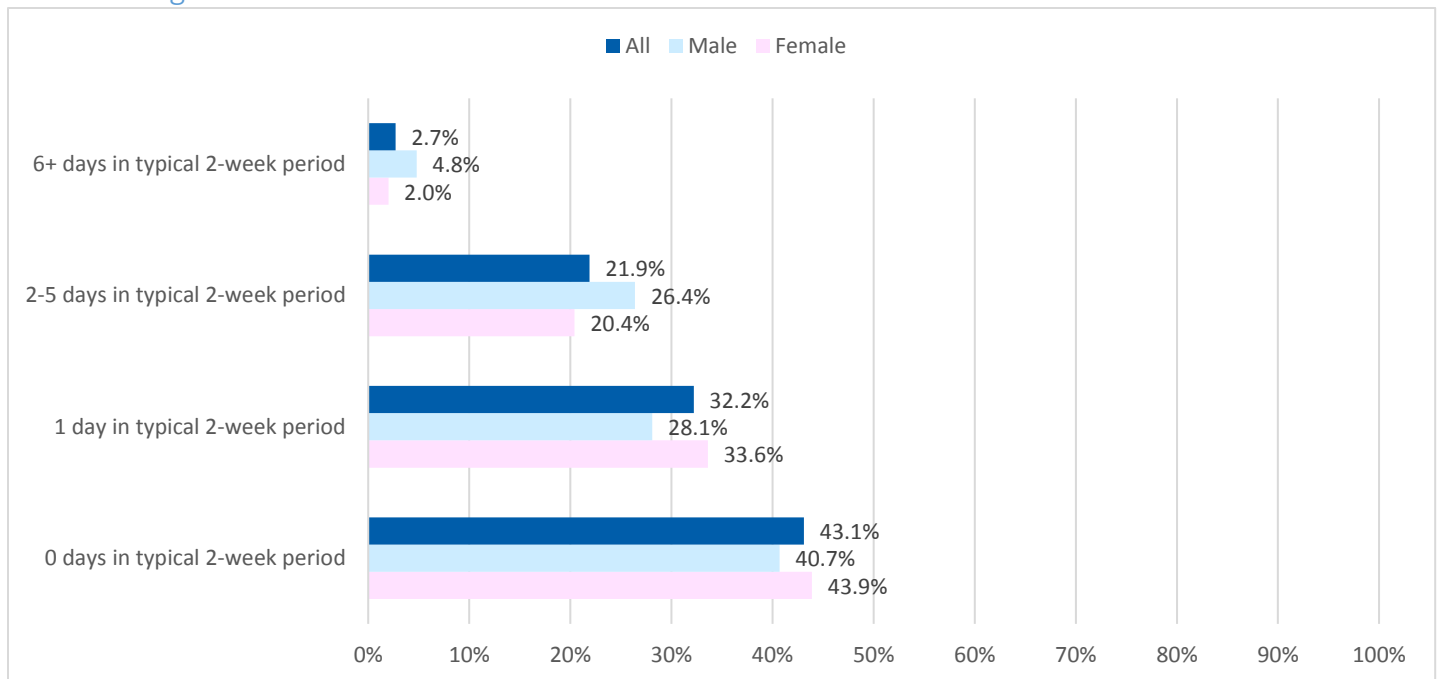
Social Life/Risk Factors

Drinking



Approximately 88% of students claim that they have had at least one alcoholic drink in their lifetime, with surprisingly fewer males (84.5%) than females (89.1%) reporting ever having had at least one drink.

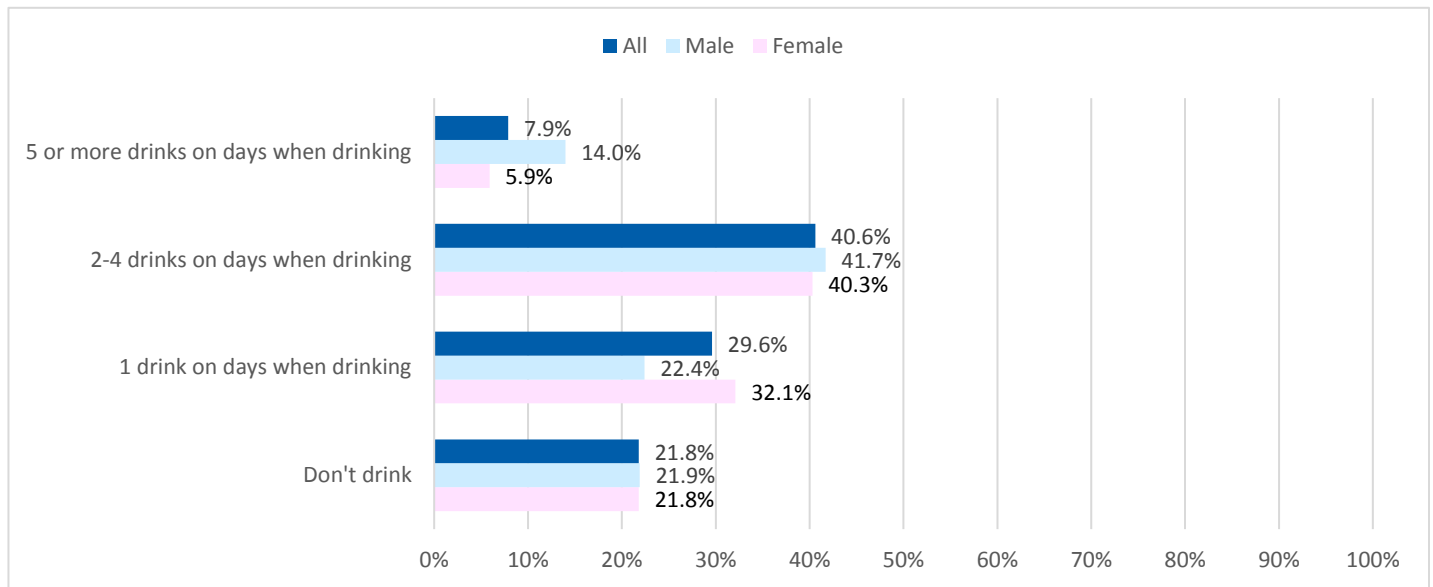
Drinks During 2-week Period



The 88% of students who claimed that they have had at least one alcoholic drink in their lifetime reported how frequently they drank alcohol in a typical two-week period during the current spring semester. While 43.1% claimed not to have had anything to drink, 32.2% of the students drank on at least 1 day, 21.9% drank on 2-5 days, and 2.7% drank on 6 or more days during that period. Reports by male and female students suggested fairly similar percentages fell into the different categories, except that almost twice as many male students (4.8%) than female students (2%) reported drinking 6 or more days.

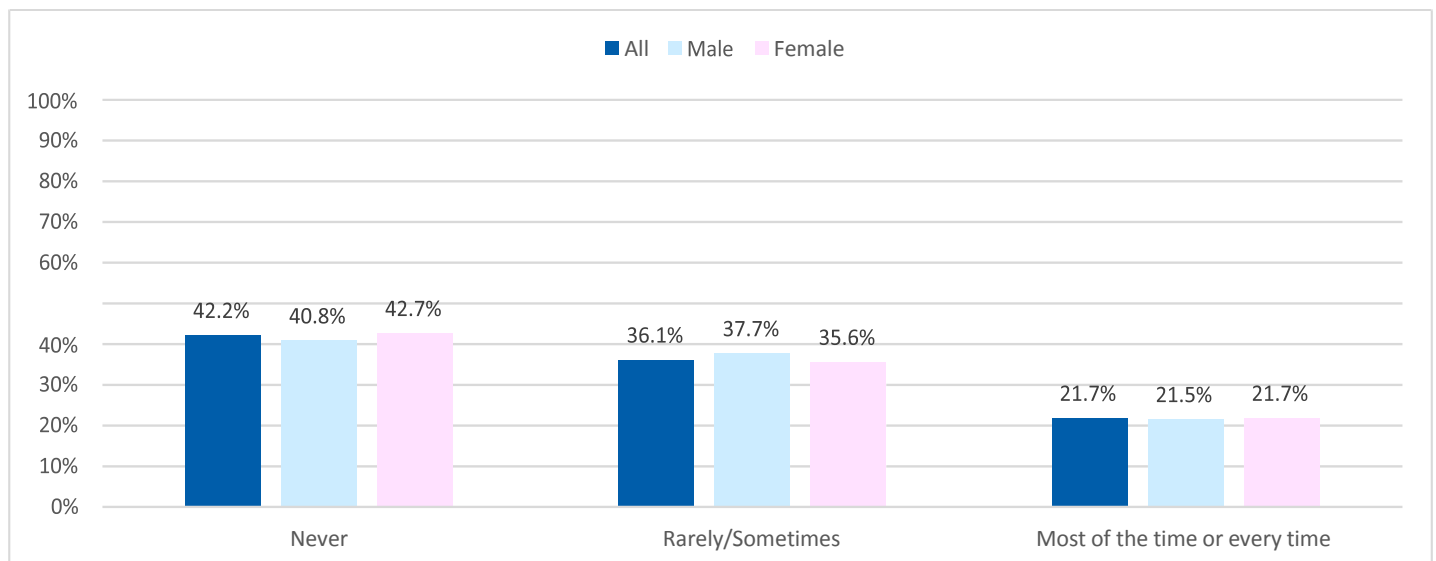
Social Life/Risk Factors

Drinking



Of the students who reported drinking during a typical 2-week period, 5.9% of the students report they consume at least 5 drinks on days that they do drink, with 14% of the male students reporting this pattern and 7.9% of female students reporting this pattern. The majority of students consume between 2-5 drinks on days that they drink during a typical 2-week period.

Drinking Before Events

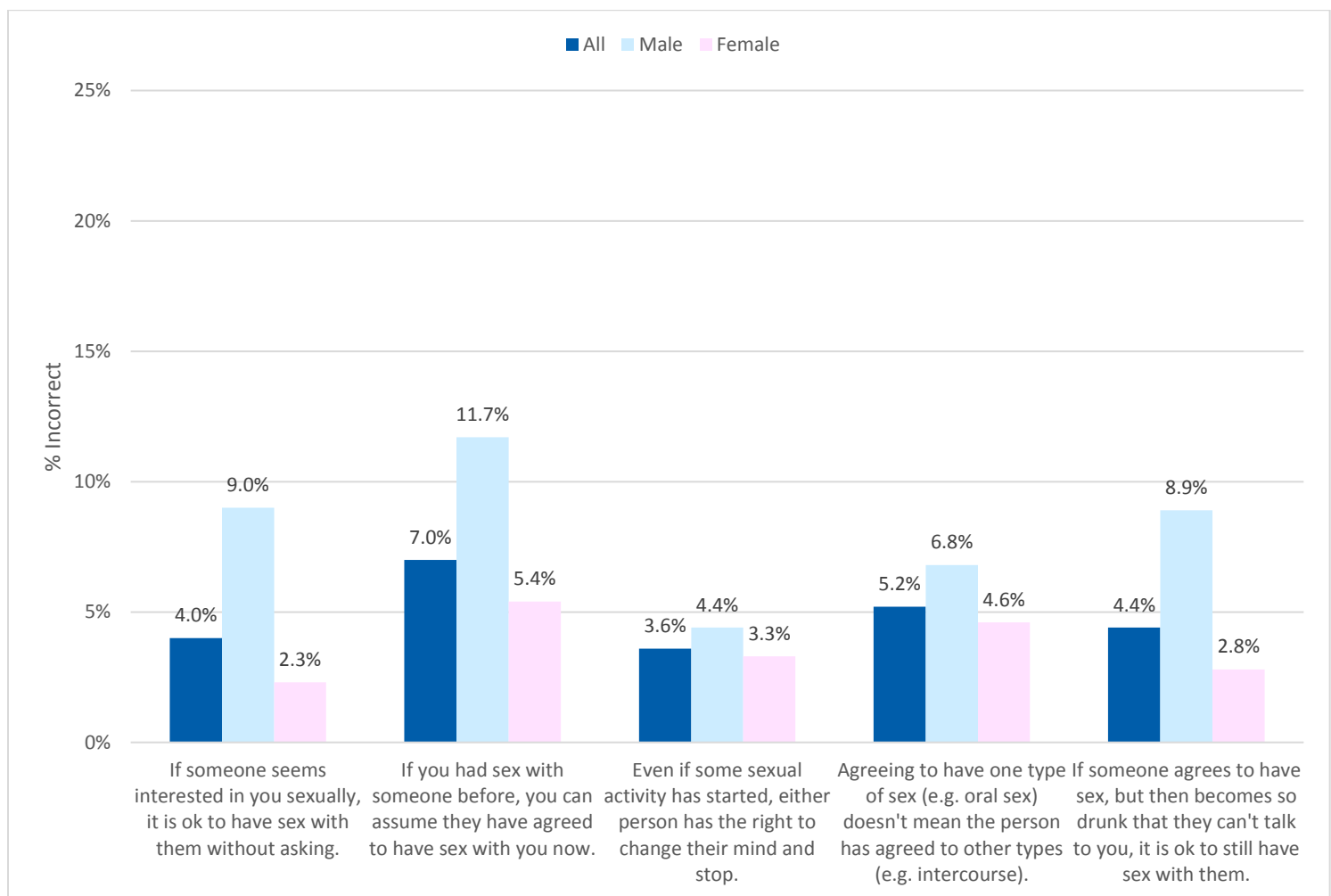


Of those who have had alcohol, the percentages of respondents indicating how frequently they drink before going to a party/bar/event

Approximately 42% of students reported they never drink before going to a party/bar/event. Male and female students report patterns of “pre-gaming” at similar percentages.

Social Life/Risk Factors

Elements of Affirmative Consent

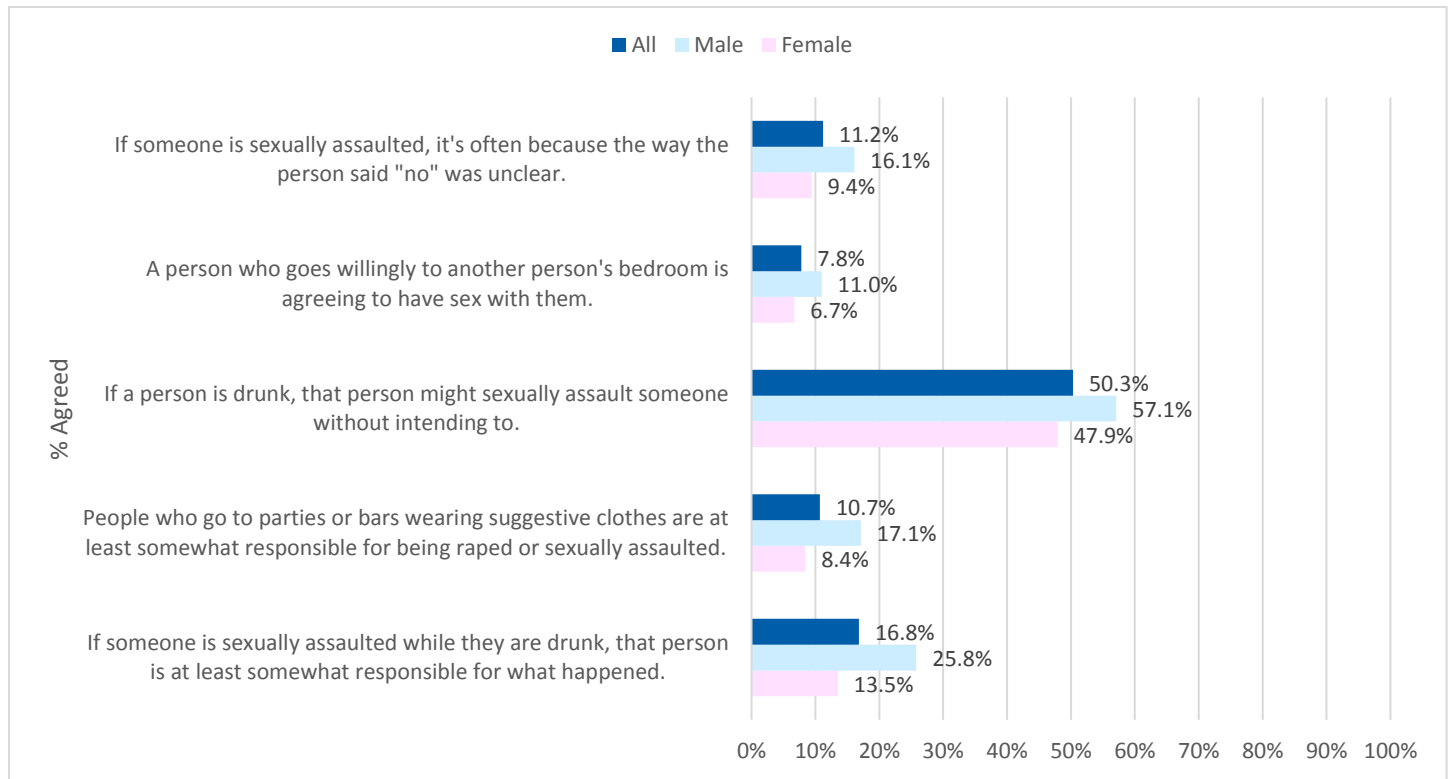


*Figures reflect percentage of students who responded **incorrectly** to elements of affirmative sexual consent.*

Most students (93-96%) agreed with these five statements about elements of consent. However, an average of 5% of students responded incorrectly, with striking differences in responses between male and female students. While an average of 3.7% female students responded incorrectly to these statements, an average of 8.2% of male students responded incorrectly.

Social Life/Risk Factors

Rape Myths

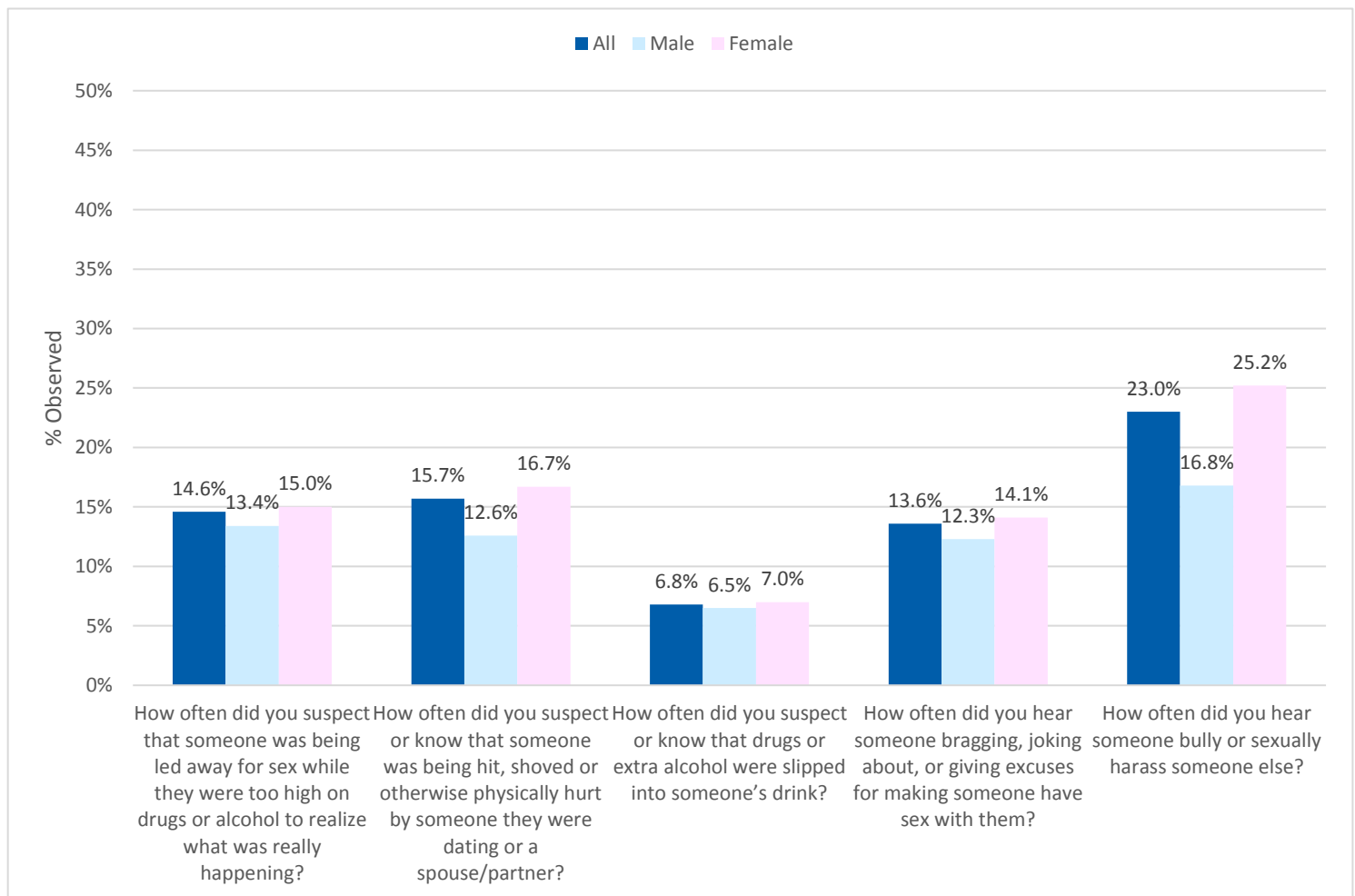


Figures reflect percentage of students who agreed with each statement

This survey included five items to assess students' attitudes towards myths about rape. As indicated above, most of the myths were not endorsed by most of the student respondents. However, females were more likely than males to disagree with the rape myths. The most surprising result in this section was the tendency of students, both male (57.1%) and female (47.9%), to agree with the idea that a drunk person might sexually assault someone without intending to do so.

Social Life/Risk Factors

Observation of Risky Behaviors

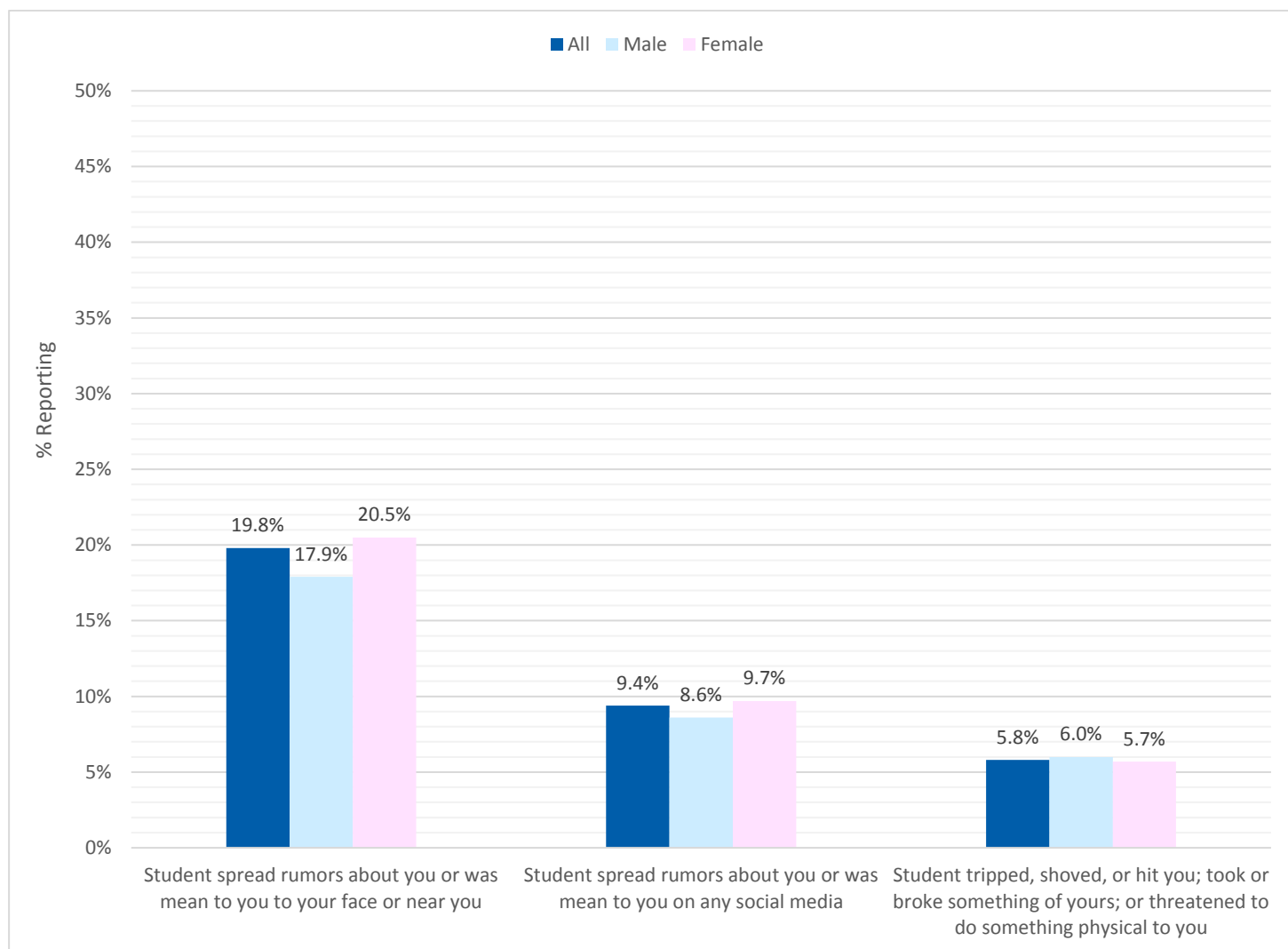


Figures reflect percentage of respondents who reported observing the incident at least once in the past year.

Students witnessed events involving risky situations for which there possibly was opportunity to intervene. Students (14.6%) reported that they witnessed events in which they suspected someone was being led away for sex while they were too high on drugs or alcohol to realize what was really happening. Female students (15%), more than male students (13.4%), reported that they witnessed this. A higher percentage of female students (14.1%) than male students (12.3%) reported hearing someone bragging, joking about, or giving excuses for making someone have sex with them. Students suspecting or knowing that someone was being hit, shoved or otherwise physically hurt by someone they were dating or a spouse/partner (15.7%) were comprised of a slightly higher percentage of female students (16.7%) than male students (12.6%) reporting this type of risky behavior. Approximately one-fourth (23%) of students witnessed someone bullying or sexually harassing another student, especially females (25.2%) who witnessed this more than males (16.8%).

Victimization Experiences

Bullying

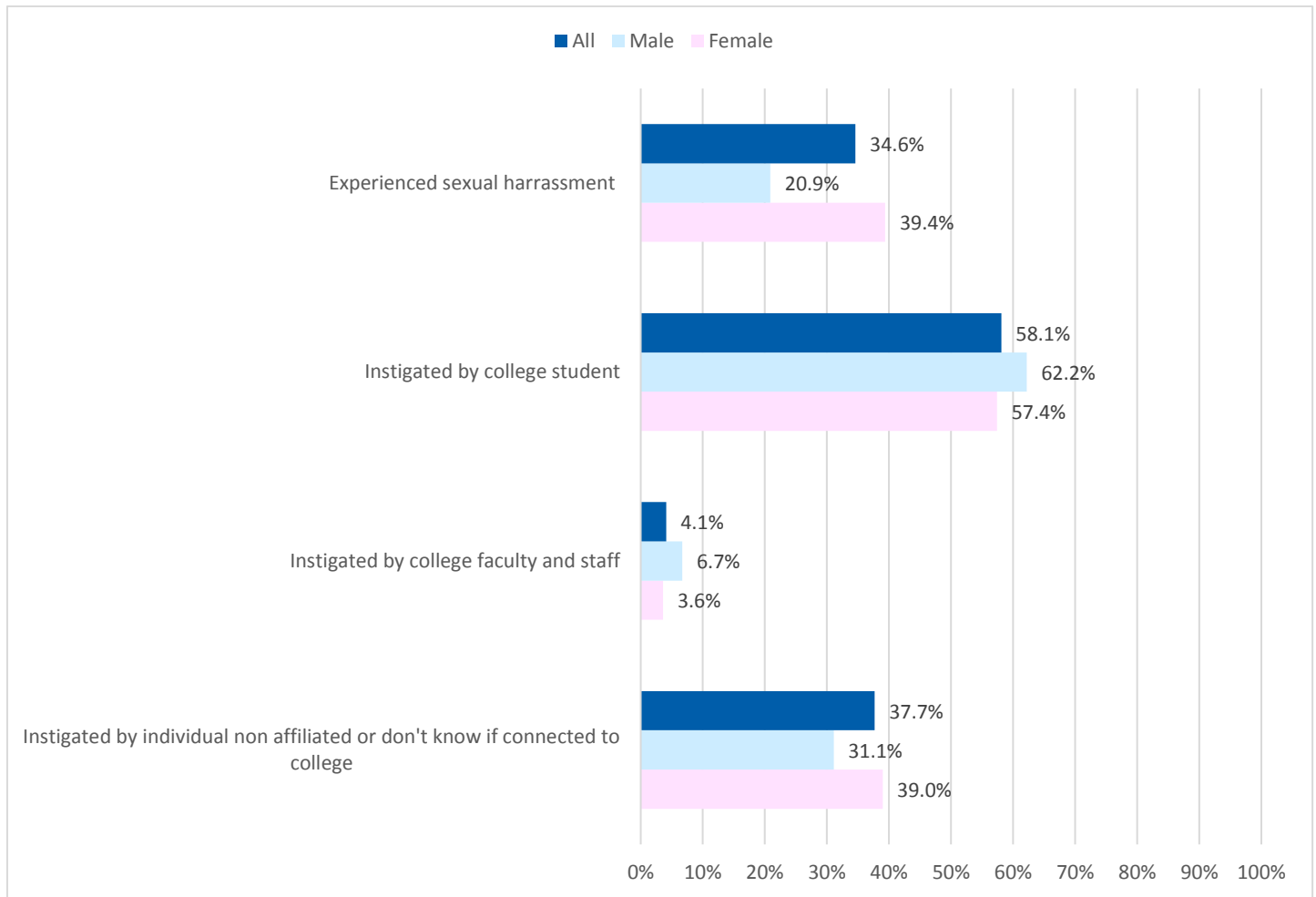


Figures reflect percentage of respondents who reported experiencing at least one of the types of bullying incidents in the past year.

Within the past year, 19.8% of Louisiana students said they were directly verbally bullied, with a slightly higher percentage of female students (20.5%) than male students (17.9%) reporting this. Approximately 9% of the student respondents reported being bullied on anonymous or other social media forums, and this experience was reported at slightly higher rate by females (9.7%) and males (8.6%). Overall, 5.8% of the student population reported physical bullying, and this type of bullying was experienced by male students (6.0%) slightly more than female students (5.7%).

Victimization Experiences

Sexual Harassment



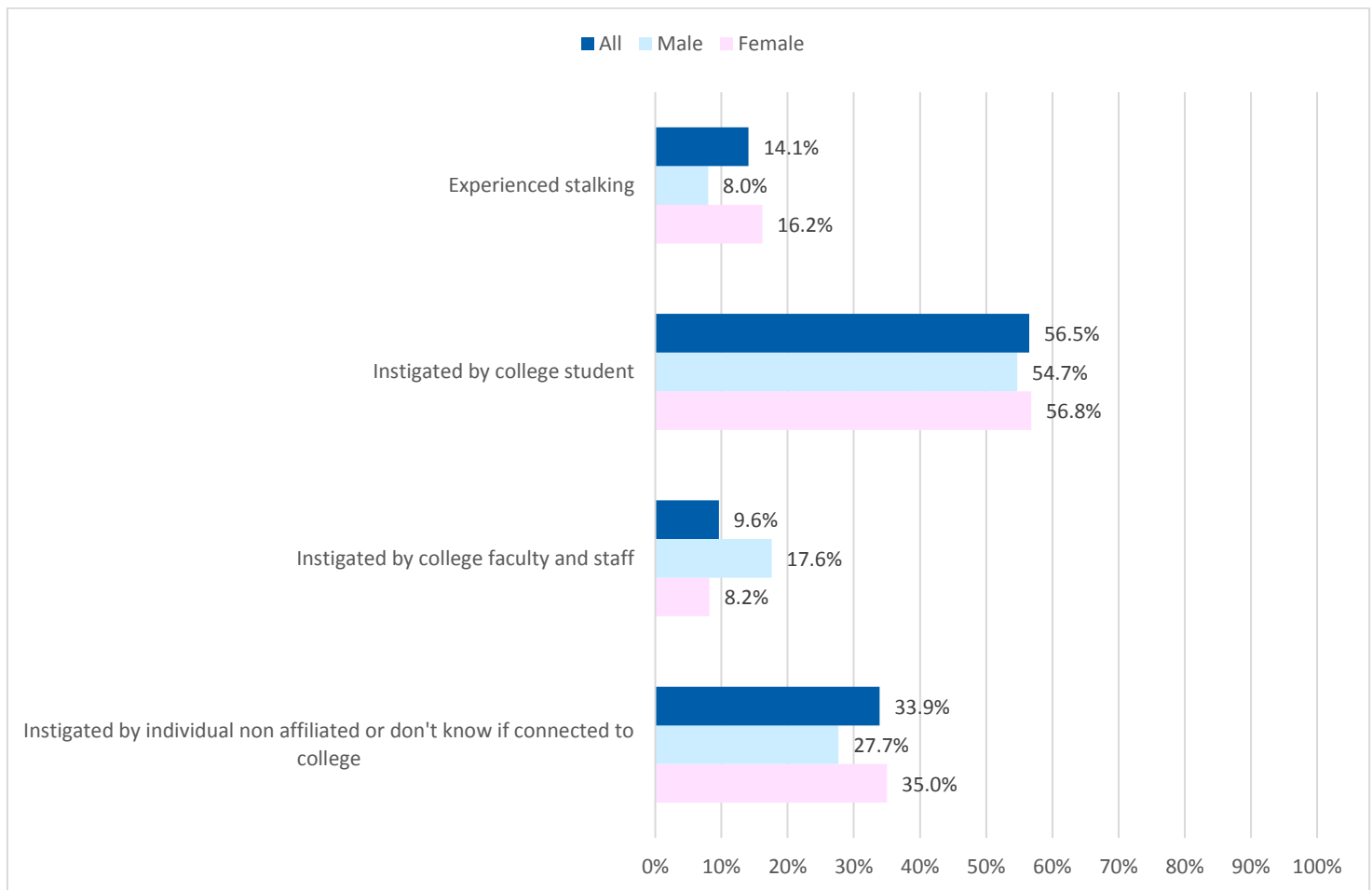
Figures reflect percentage of respondents who reported experiencing at least one type of sexual harassment incident in the past year and, for those reporting sexual harassment, whether the offender was affiliated with their institution.

Sexual harassment, defined as experiencing at least one of the six types of sexual harassment once during the last year, was reported by 34.6% of the students. Sexual harassment was directed toward proportionally more female students (39.4%) than male students (20.9%).

Overall, of the students experiencing sexual harassment, 4.1% reported that the person sexually harassing them was affiliated with their institution as a faculty or staff member. More male students (62.2%) reported experiencing sexual harassment by a student than females (57.4%). Similarly, more males (6.7%) than females (3.6%) reported that the person sexually harassing them was a faculty or staff member. Female respondents reported a greater percentage of sexual harassment occurring with partners who were not affiliated with their college (39.0%) than male (31.1%).

Victimization Experiences

Stalking



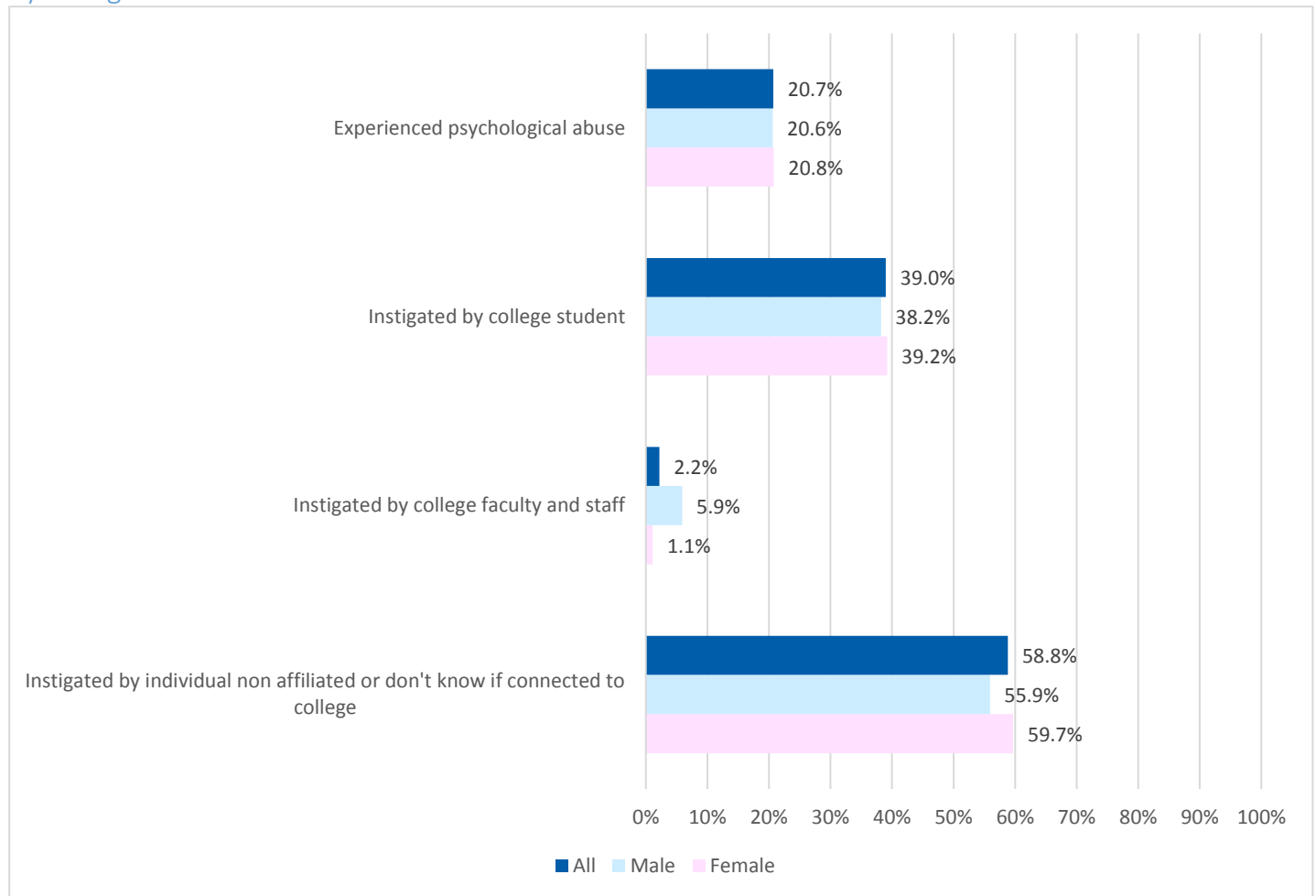
Figures reflect percentage of respondents who reported experiencing at least one type of stalking incident in the past year and, for those reporting stalking, whether the offender was affiliated with their institution.

Over the past year, 14.1% of Louisiana students reported they experienced at least one form of stalking during the last year that made them afraid. However, a greater percentage of female students (16.2%) reported being stalked than male students (8%). Overall, 56.5% of those students stalked reported the stalkers were students and 9.6% were faculty and staff. Males (54.7%) and females (56.8%) reported being stalked by a student at similar rates, but male students (17.6%) reported being stalked by a faculty or staff member more frequently than female students (8.2%). Female respondents reported a greater percentage of stalking occurred with partners who were not affiliated with their college (35.0%) than male respondents (27.7%).

Victimization Experiences

Intimate Partner Victimization

Psychological Abuse

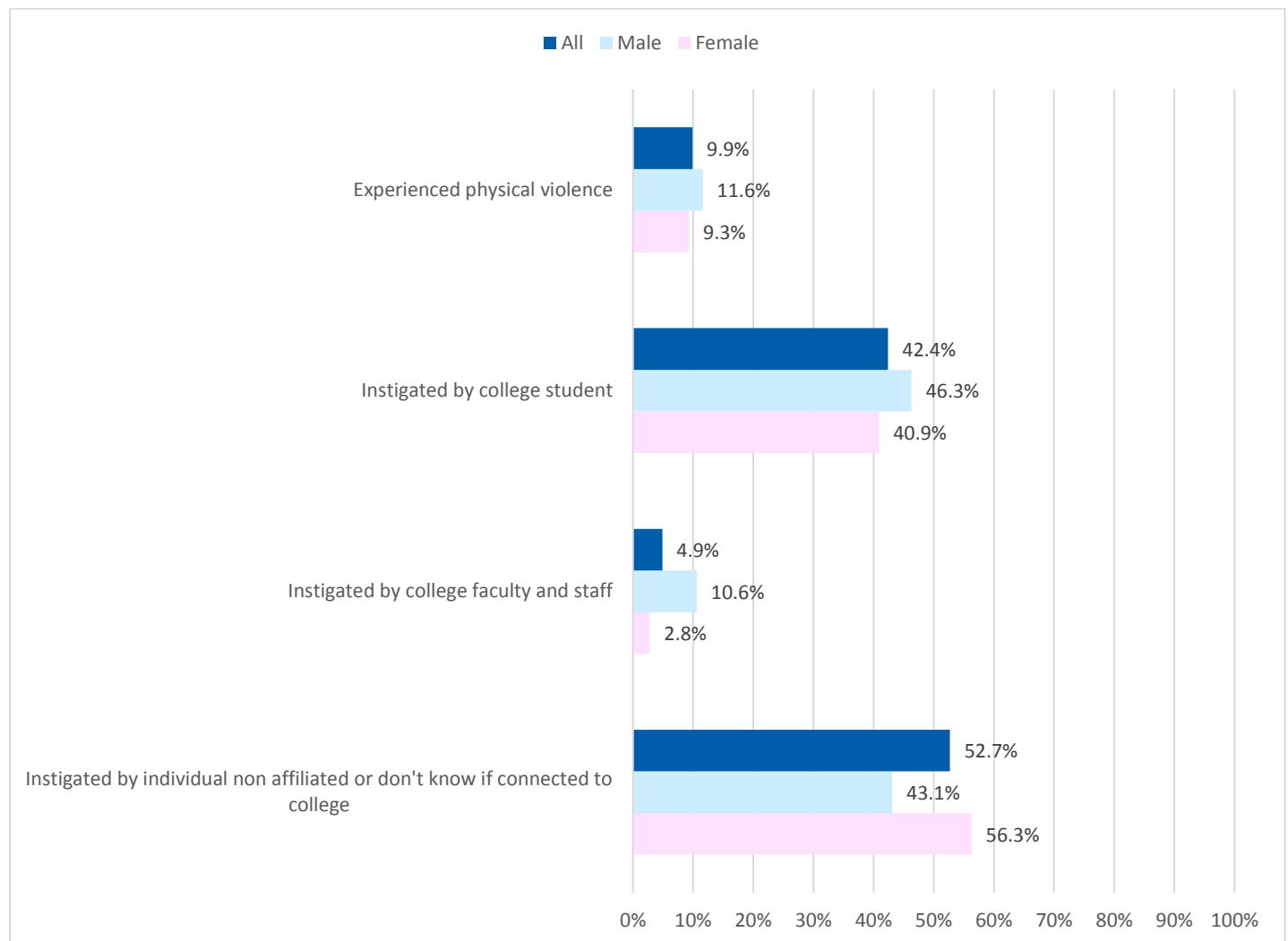


Figures reflect percentage of respondents who reported experiencing at least one incident of psychological abuse in the past year and, for those reporting psychological abuse, whether their partner was affiliated with their institution.

Among students, 20.7% reported experiencing at least one form of serious psychological abuse (e.g., monitoring, intimidation) in their intimate relationships during the last year, with no differences between genders. Approximately a third (39%) of these students indicated that the partner engaging in the psychological abuse was a student. However, a higher percentage of male students (5.9%) than female students (1.1%) reported the partner was a faculty or staff member, and a higher percentage of female students (59.7%) than male students (55.9%) reported the partner was not affiliated with their college.

Victimization Experiences

Physical Abuse

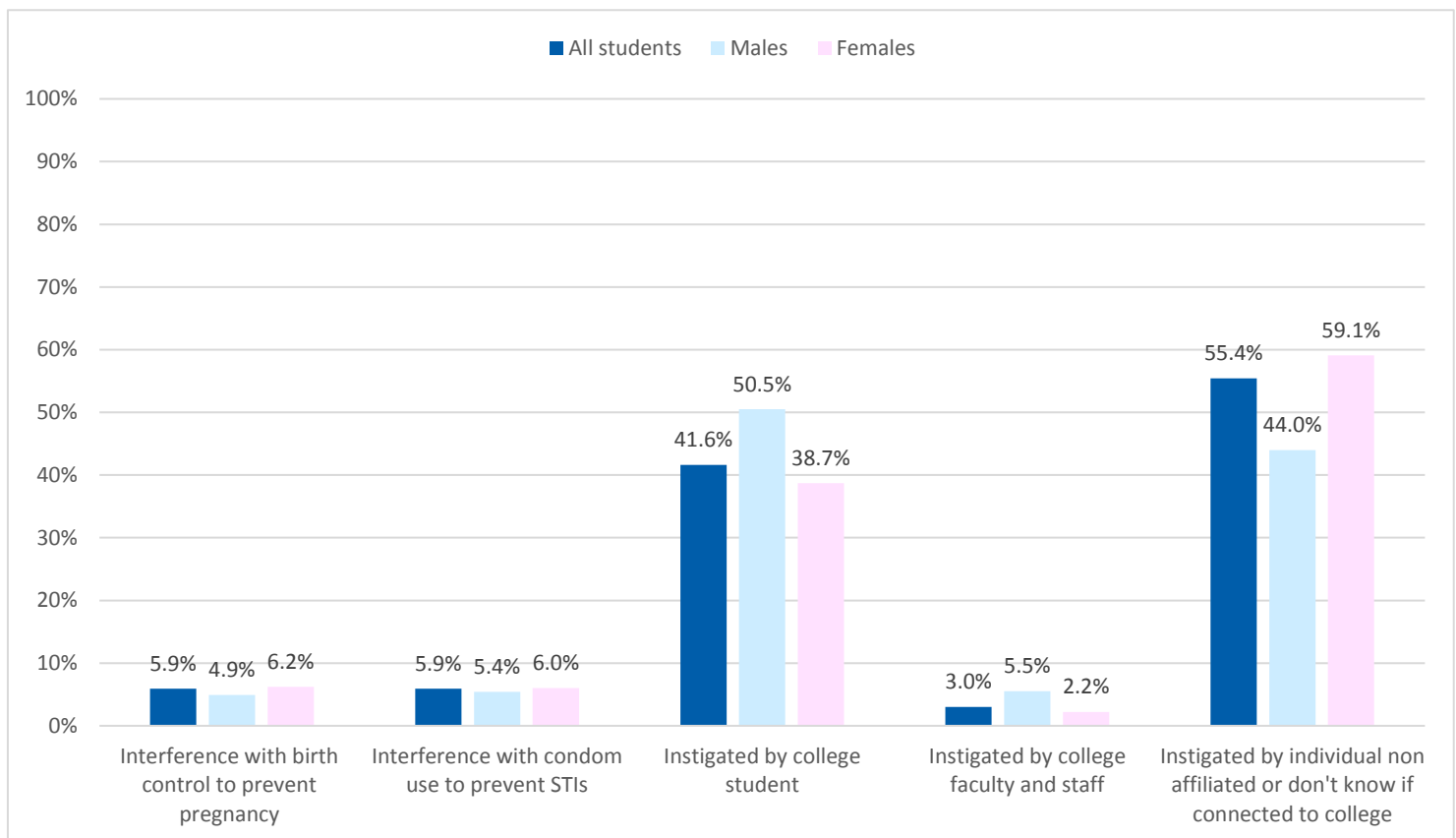


Figures reflect percentage of respondents who reported experiencing at least one incident of physical violence in the past year and, for those reporting physical violence, whether their partner was affiliated with their institution.

Overall, 9.9% of the student respondents reported an incident of physical force or violence directed toward them in the last year by a dating partner or spouse/partner, with higher reported rates by males (11.6%) than females (9.3%). A higher percentage of male students (10.6%) than female students (2.8%) reported the partner was a faculty or staff member, and a higher percentage of male students (46.3%) than female students (40.9%) reported the partner was a student. Female students (56.3%) had higher percentages of abusing partners who were not affiliated with their college than male students (43.1%).

Victimization Experiences

Reproductive Coercion



Figures reflect percentage of respondents who reported experiencing at least one incident of reproductive coercion in the past year and, for those reporting reproductive coercion, whether their sexual partner was affiliated with their institution.

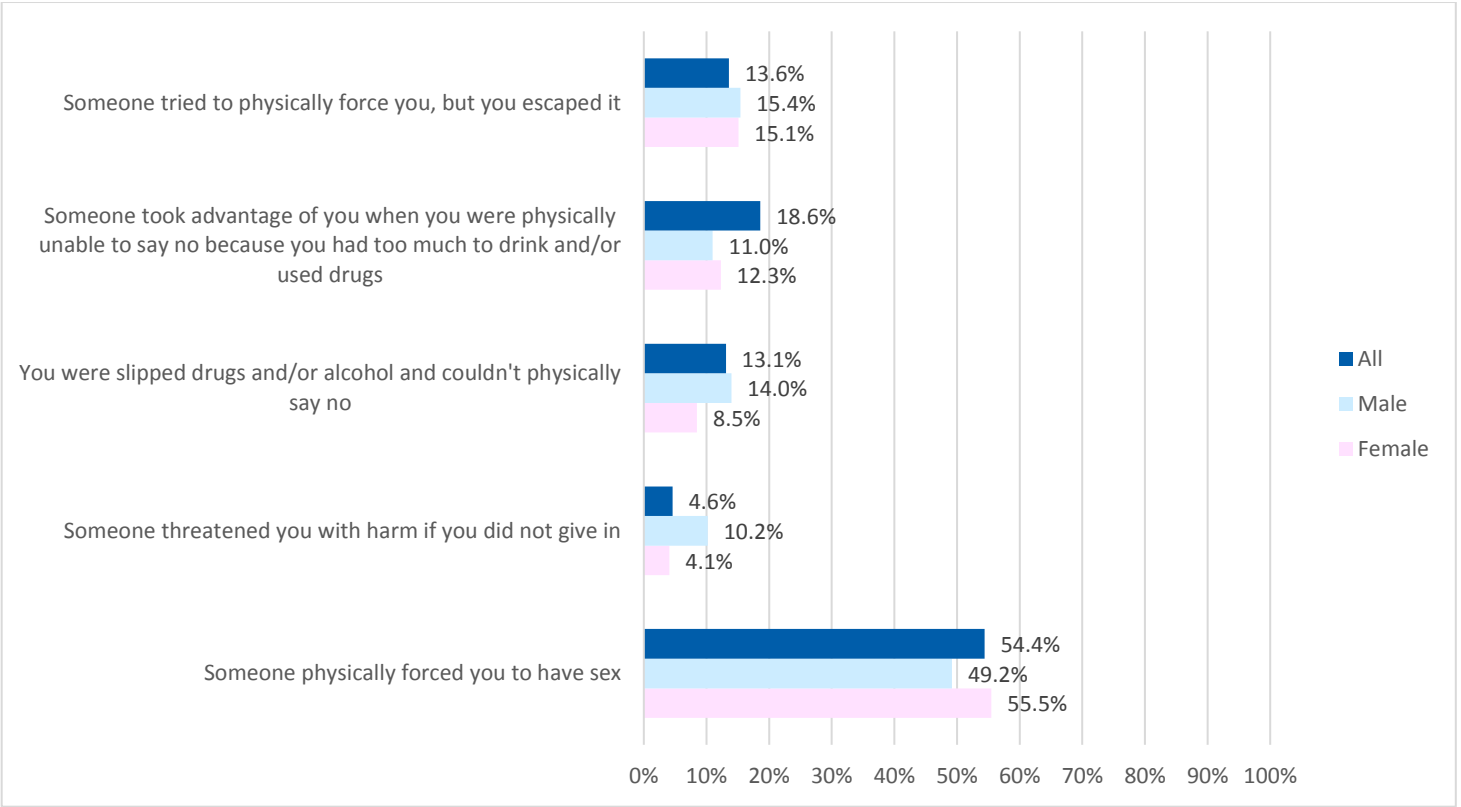
Students who had a sexual partner in the prior year reported whether they ever had a sexual partner interfere with their use or desire to use birth control or condoms. Overall, 5.9% of students reported that a sexual partner interfered with using birth control to prevent pregnancy, with smaller percentages of male (4.9%) than female (6.2%) students reporting this form of reproductive coercion. When asked to report interference with using condoms to prevent STIs, 5.9% of the students overall reported this type of reproductive coercion with more female (6.0%) than male (5.4%) students reporting this. Of those respondents who reported a form of reproductive coercion, 41.6% identified another student as the perpetrator with more males (50.5%) than females (38.7%) reporting another student responsible for the coercion. Students indicated that 3.0% of the partners who interfered with pregnancy and STI prevention were college faculty and staff; similarly, more males reported higher rates (5.5%) than females (2.2%). Female respondents reported a greater percentage of their experienced reproductive coercion occurred with partners who were not affiliated with their college (59.1%) than male respondents (44.0%).

Sexual Assault Victimization Experiences

Sexual Assault Victimization Experiences (n=351)

Of the five defined categories for sexual assault, the greatest proportion of sexually assaulted respondents reported being physically forced (54.4%). This group constituted 0.7% of the total student respondents. The percentages of sexually assaulted students falling into the other sexual assault categories are as follows:

Category	% of Sexually Assaulted Respondents	% of Student Respondents
1. Physical Force	54.4%	2.7%
2. Voluntarily Drank or Use Drugs	18.6%	0.6%
3. Slipped Drugs or Alcohol	13.1%	0.7%
4. Threatened with harm	4.6%	0.3%
5. Escaped the assault	13.6%	0.8%



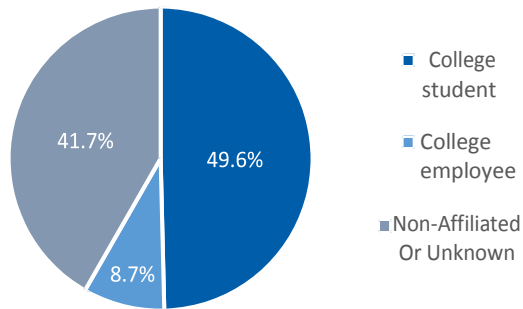
Percentages reflect the experiences of the 351 (5% of total students) reporting sexual assault

Students responding to the survey (n=351; 5.0%) reported sexual assaults (vaginal, oral, or anal sex) that occurred in the past year. Of those students, males who reported being sexual assaulted constituted 3.2% of the male survey respondents and females who reported being sexual assaulted constituted 5.6% of the female respondents. Reports of sexual assault were made by 292 females and 59 males. Gender differences were similar across the different categories of sexual assault with two exceptions: a) when a victim was slipped a substance, males reported a higher occurrence (14%, or 0.3% of male respondents) than females (8.5%; or 0.8% of female respondents); and b) if a threat resulted in an assault almost twice as many males (10.2%; or 0.3% of male student population) reported being threatened than females (4.1%; or 0.2% of female student population).

Sexual Assault Victimization Experiences

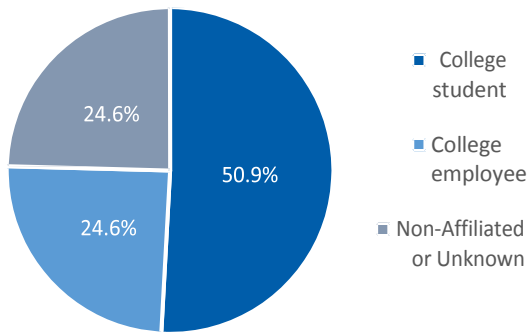
Perpetrator’s Relationship to College/University

All Students

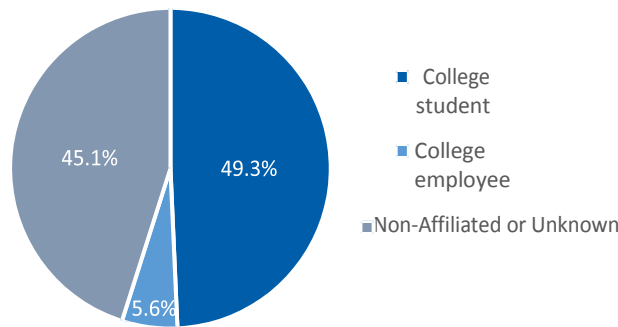


The majority of individuals committing the sexual assaults were reported to be students (49.6%). Approximately 8.7% of perpetrators were reported to be college employees (e.g., faculty, staff, RAs/TAs, coaches), while 41.7% were reported to be individuals not affiliated with the institution or their affiliation was unknown.

Male Students



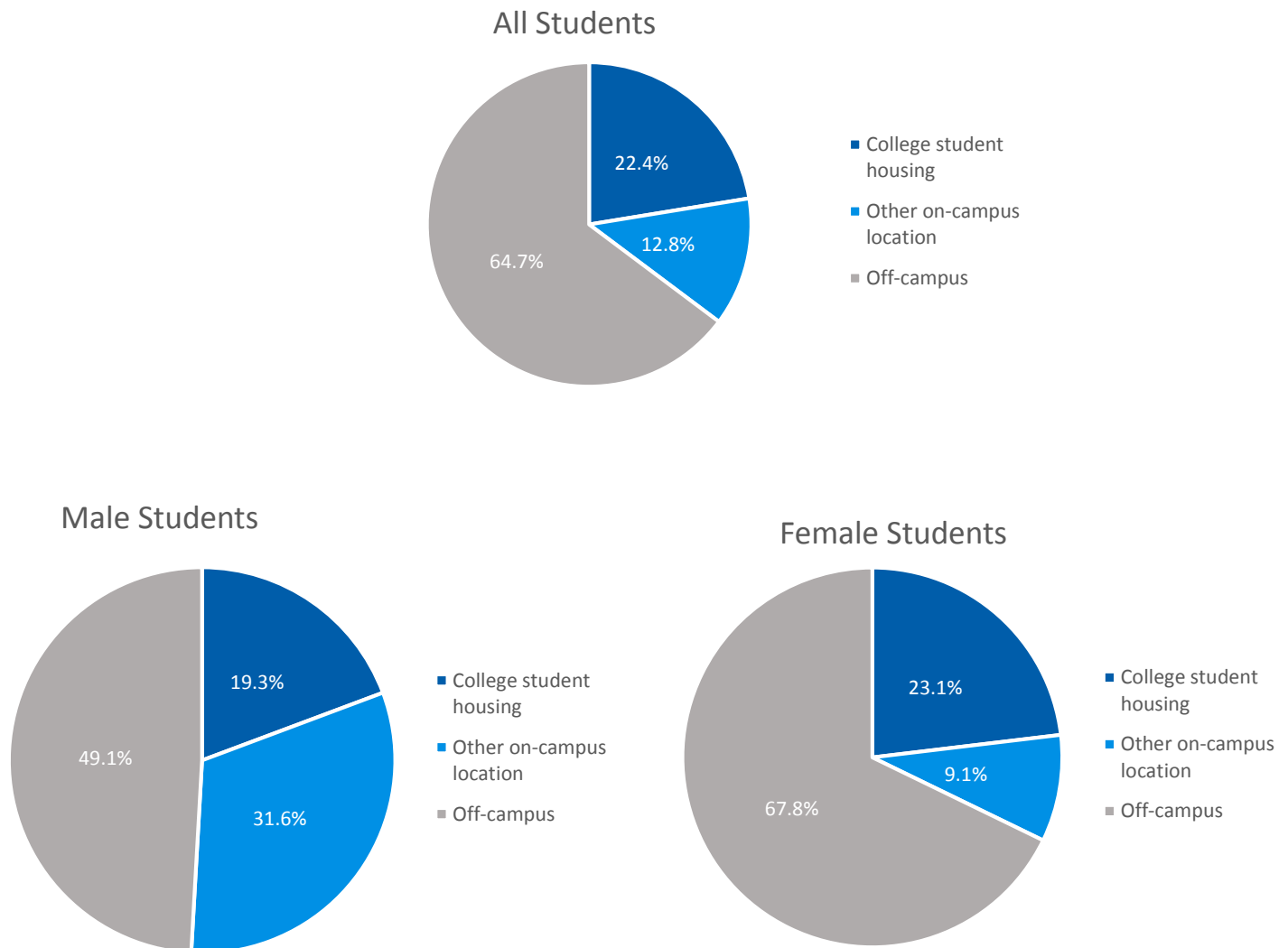
Female Students



Proportionally both female and male students reported similar percentages for the perpetrator being a student (49.3% vs. 50.9%), while more male students (24.6%) than female students (5.6%) reported victimization by college faculty and employees. More female students (45.1%) than male (24.6%) reported victimization by someone not affiliated with the institution or they did not know the affiliation of their perpetrator.

Sexual Assault Victimization Experiences

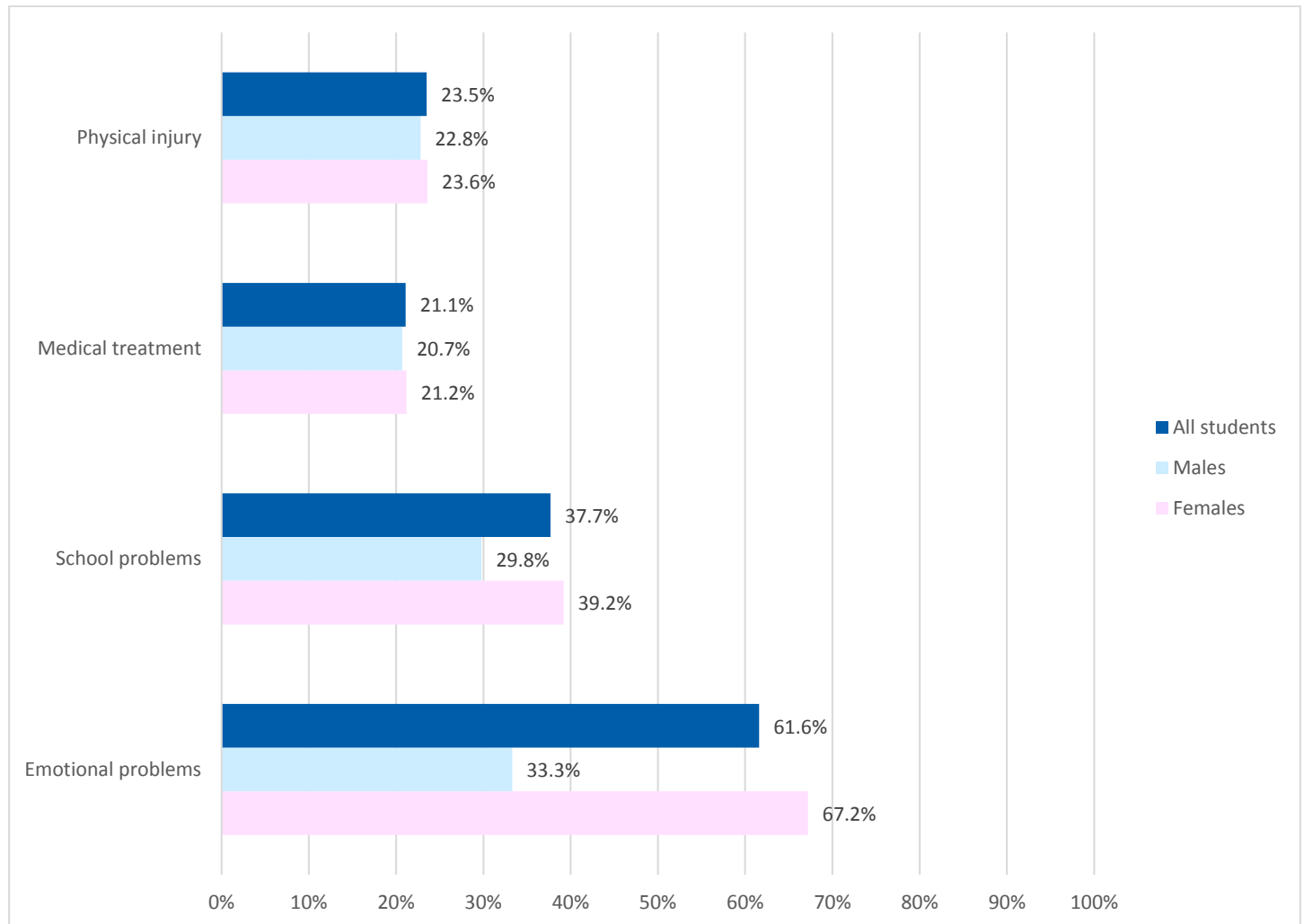
Location of Sexual Assaults



For the locations that were reported by students as the site of the sexual assault, proportionally 22.4% occurred in student housing (e.g., dorms), 12.8% occurred in other locations on-campus (e.g., fraternity/sorority house, study abroad, other campus building), and 64.7% occurred off-campus. More females (23.1%) than males (19.3%) reported sexual assaults occurring in dorms; more males (31.6%) than females (9.1%) reported the assaults occurring in other on campus locations (e.g. fraternity/sorority houses, campus buildings, outside on campus or study abroad) Conversely, more females (67.8%) than males (49.1%) reported assaults occurring off-campus.

Sexual Assault Victimization Experiences

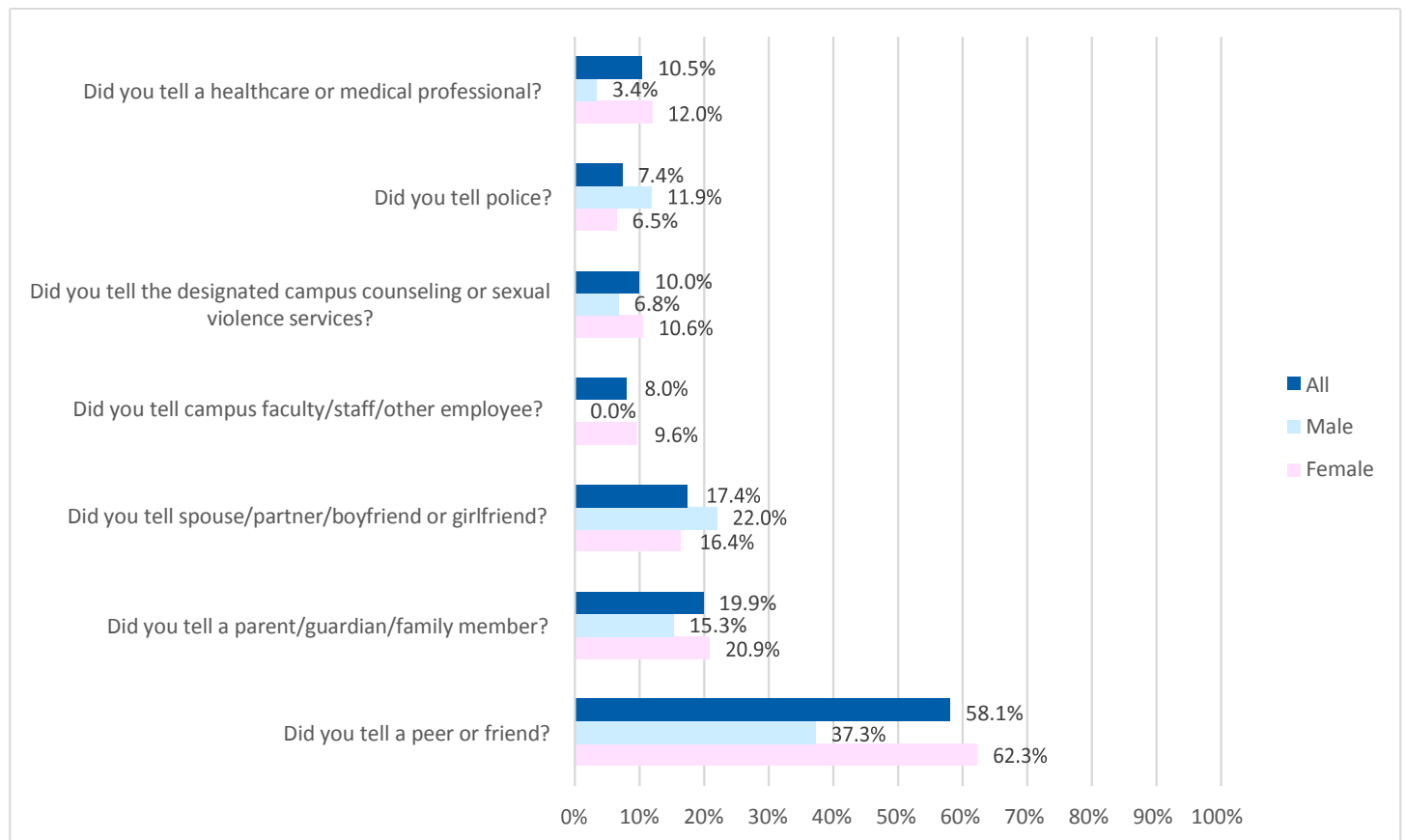
Impacts after Experiencing Sexual Assault (n=351)



Of the sexually assaulted students who provided data on whether they experienced negative impacts as a result, 23.5% reported a physical injury, 21.1% reported needing medical treatment, 37.7% reported subsequently having problems meeting school responsibilities, and 61.6% reported subsequently having serious emotional difficulties. Similar reports were made across gender for physical injury (22.8% vs. 23.6%) and medical treatment (20.7% vs. 21.2%). Conversely, more female than male students reported problems with school responsibilities (39.2% vs. 29.8%) and serious emotional difficulties (67.2% vs. 33.3%) after being assaulted.

Sexual Assault Victimization Experiences

Reporting Sources



Students who reported experiencing a sexual assault in the past 12 months (n=351) were asked whether they contacted any services following the incident. The majority of students reported to a peer or friend (58.1%) with almost twice the number of females (62.3%) than males (37.3%) reporting to peers or friends. Approximately 20% of students indicated that they reported to parent/guardian/family member, with slight differences between male and female (15.3% vs. 20.9%). Similar number of students reported telling a spouse or significant other (17.4%), conversely more males (22%) than females (16.4%) indicated they used this reporting source. Formal services (police, healthcare, counseling, and campus officials) indicated very similar percentages for students who contacted them after a sexual assault, ranging between 7.4% (police) to 10.5% (healthcare). The significant differences in these services can be seen across gender. More males reported using police (11.9%) than females (6.5%); whereas for all other services generally females reported to them at higher rates than males.

Summary and Recommendations

Participation

Summary: Students who completed the survey were more likely to be female students. Not surprisingly, more than half of the respondents were non-freshman undergraduates and students with in-state status.

Recommendations: In the future, more advance preparation, increased efforts at implementation (e.g., reminder emails), and provision of incentives may increase the number of students responding to the campus safety survey which may provide more information from segments of the student population that may be underrepresented in this survey. Specifically, provision of state funds for institutions to be able provide individual incentives for students who participate in the campus climate survey would be expected to significantly increase the number of students participating.

Campus Climate

Summary: Students report a general sense of safety at their institution and the perception that their college cares about their safety, although 30-40% still believe that sexual violence is a problem at their institution. Interestingly, students believe their campus administrations would be helpful and fair to someone reporting a sexual assault, but conversely about half of the students expected that problems would arise from someone accused of sexual assault and/or their friends toward the person reporting a sexual assault. An assessment of whether students possess accurate knowledge regarding what happens when a sexual assault is reported and whether students know how to seek necessary resources following an assault suggests that many students lack some basic information about mandatory reporting, confidentiality of reporting sources, the potential for accommodations and resources following a sexual assault, and whether hearings always follow investigations by the Title IX Office.

Because alcohol use has been determined to be associated with (but not causal of) sexual assault, alcohol use was assessed to identify percentages of students who may engage in more problematic drinking patterns. Almost 5% of male student respondents reporting drinking at least half of the days in a typical 2-week period during the semester and 14% of male respondents reporting a drinking pattern of binge drinking on days when they do drink. Although female respondents were less likely to report these two problematic drinking patterns (i.e., 2% drinking 6+ days in two weeks and 6% binge drinking), there are still significant portions of students who are at greater risk for sexual violence and/or substance problems.

Assessment of attitudes toward campus climate issues demonstrated that most student respondents ascribed correct responses when asked about affirmative elements of sexual consent and rejected rape myths. However, males more often than females disagreed with elements of affirmative consent such that around 10% believe assent to sex can be detected without specifically asking, that prior sexual relations infer current consent, and that consent while sober can be considered to still be in play if the potential partner becomes incapacitated from substances. Men also endorse rape myths more than women in this survey sample. The most surprising item however showed that approximately 50% of male and female respondents believe that a drunk person might sexually assault someone without intending to.

Students taking the survey reported observing risky incidents at rates that are potentially of concern. Substances slipped into a drink was the least frequently observed risky situation with observation of a bullying or sexually harassing incident occurring most often. Regarding sexual violence, approximately 15% of the student respondents suspected that someone incapacitated from substances was being led away by someone who might sexually assault them while incapacitated, and 14% have heard someone talking/bragging/joking about having made someone have sex with them.

Summary and Recommendations

Recommendations: In light of students' perceptions of safety and their institutions' responses regarding their safety, two main recommendations are suggested. Campus PR efforts, including distribution of materials to all students, should work to educate students about mandatory reporting, confidential reporting sources, the potential for accommodations for a range of Title IX violations, and how to find resources for a range of victimizations. The issue of retaliation on campuses against reporting sexual assault victims needs to be addressed in two ways: first through established procedures at the Student Affairs level, and second, through campus-led initiatives to encourage students not to react with smear campaigns when they are cognizant of accusations, but rather to allow the university procedures to occur.

The role of alcohol in sexual assault as well as numerous other victimizations suggests that training occur for students early in their tenure at their institution that combines education regarding both alcohol issues and victimization/perpetration as well as their interaction. PR programs on campus might also encourage students with problematic drinking patterns and/or problems resulting from substances to contact confidential counseling services on campus.

Regarding attitudes toward campus climate issues, probably the place to start is to make the information in Student Codes of Conduct very explicit as to exactly what is intended or inferred by requiring affirmative consent. It is important to work with the institution legal office to avoid potential pitfalls in how this is determined, but examples may also be helpful in the student code of conduct to guide students to understand how sexual assault is defined. The Student Code of Conduct could even address rape myths in existence and explain why they are not accurate.

The potential for students to see themselves as part of a community that looks out for each other and helps to maintain behavioral norms is exemplified by the current proliferation of bystanding programs for prevention of violence, both sexual and nonsexual. Student Affairs Offices might investigate the possibility of training some staff who could provide these programs to students. The goal of bystanding programs is to create awareness of potentially risky situations for which students feel trained to intervene without harm to themselves.

Victimization

Bullying was measured for face-to-face maltreatment, social media maltreatment, and physical actions or intimidation by other college students. As expected physical bullying was least common, but 6% of respondents still reported this form. Most common was face-to-face maltreatment with 1/5 of the students completing the survey reporting this form of bullying. Surprisingly sexual harassment (SH) was reported as even more common (35%), although twice as many female students percentagewise reported SH than male students. Of the students who experience SH, more than half of the offenders were other college students and another 38% of the offenders were not affiliated with that student's college. Fortunately, a small percentage (4%) of offenders were college faculty/staff and it is important to remember that this group includes graduate assistants, coaches, resident advisors, trainers, etc. The percentage of students in this sample who reported stalking was relatively high (14%), again with twice as many female students percentagewise reporting being a victim of stalking than male students. It is important to note that the definition of stalking in this survey required that the behavior of the offender was not only unwanted and intrusive, but that it made the recipient afraid. The breakdown of offenders was similar to that of the SH offenders, with college students making up 57% and nonaffiliated offenders constituting 34%. However, the percent of college faculty/staff designated as the category of persons stalking the students increased to almost 10%.

Summary and Recommendations

Student respondents who reported an ongoing relationship in the prior year were assessed regarding the presence of psychological abuse and physical violence. [Note that the psychological abuse items constitute more serious forms of intimidation and control.] Almost 21% of this sample of students reported experience at least one incident of psychological abuse in the past year. Most offenders were individuals who are not affiliated with the students' colleges and faculty/staff constituted a very small percentage of these offenders. It is significant to note that 10% of the reporting students indicated at least one physically violent incident from a partner in the last year. Offenders were fairly evenly distributed between partners who were also college students (42%) and partners not affiliated with the colleges (53%). Students who reported a sexual partner in the past year were asked regarding reproductive coercion. Six percent reported interference by a sex partner when they wanted to prevent pregnancy and 6% also reported interference with condom use when they wanted to possibly prevent contracting a STI. College faculty and staff were least implicated as offenders in this category of victimization with other college students as the sexual partner or nonaffiliated persons as the sexual partner were mostly responsible for the reproductive coercion.

Of the students responding to the survey, 5.1% reported a sexual assault. Over half of these students reported that the assault occurred through physical force with varying percentages of those who were sexually assaulted reported physical incapacitation, succumbing to threats, or actually escaping from the assault. The perpetrators of these assaults were mostly college students, although 42% were perpetrated by someone not affiliated with the victim's college. However, male students were more likely than females to report that the perpetrator was a college employee. The vast majority of assaults occurred off-campus, but 22% occurred in on-campus student housing. Physical injury and medical treatment resulting from the sexual assault were both reported around 21-23%, while school problems (38%) and emotional problems (62%) were reported more frequently. School problems and emotional problems were reported at higher percentage rated by female respondents than male respondents who had been sexually assaulted. Upon experiencing the sexual assault, females were generally more likely to report the experience, whether to formal or informal sources, than males. The most common source of reporting was to a peer or a friend followed by a parent/guardian/family member or a spouse/partner/boyfriend/girlfriend. Only 7% of sexual assault victims told police while approximately 10% told either a healthcare professional or campus counseling services.

Recommendations. Campus educational programs that begin to define for students what constitutes bullying or sexual harassment may be important for students to identify that what happened to them may constitute a Title IX violation or at least encourage them to seek services, if needed. In addition, educational programs might help students understand when stalking goes beyond annoying contact from an ex-boyfriend/girlfriend into the realm of needing to report it for criminal purposes. Students need to be aware that there may be services available to them (e.g., accommodations) for these forms of victimization even though they may be aware those services are available to sexual assault victims.

Reporting a partner for different forms of intimate partner victimization has always been more fraught with ambivalence for victims experiencing these types of abuse/violence. Information should be extended to students that encourages them to at least seek confidential services in order to explore options when they are experiencing physical violence from a partner. Programs which heighten the destructive of the use of physical force or severe psychological tactics within relationships might focus on healthy relationship behaviors to provide alternatives to destructive conflict tactics. In addition, students are often unaware of the concept of reproductive coercion and its potential problems, and campus education efforts in this regard are often warranted. Often in these cases, making sure students know about counseling services is the important first step for them.

Summary and Recommendations

For all of these forms of victimization, even though the percentages of offenders are proportionally small compared to other offenders, university and college faculty and employees (including graduate assistants, resident hall advisors, trainers) need to be exposed to definitions and examples of problematic behaviors that will not be tolerated by institutions of higher education. Programs about sexual harassment, bullying, and stalking can raise awareness of unacceptable actions.

Although many campuses are focusing on providing services for sexually assaulted victims, some victims may not know that they are eligible for services or resources in this regard. For example, a student being sexually assaulted off campus may not know that she/he might still receive some accommodations regarding their course work due to the trauma. Some of the impacts of sexual assault develop over time and are not always understood by the victim, e.g., someone who becomes depressed over time or finds herself/himself drinking more who does not realize how seriously she/he has reacted to the subsequent events of the assault, and thus educational programs can attempt to move victims toward resources. To enhance better use of resources, more work can be done on individual campuses to elicit reasons from students as to why they would or would not use campus resources for such purposes.

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